



# **Questioning the Sustainability of Research Funding**

**David Sweeney  
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# Questions

- What evidence can HEIs leverage to influence treasury decision making?
- How can the sector sustain research funding for STEM, social science and humanities?
- The Research Excellence Framework agenda. How this is managed and what does it mean now?

# The government's Plan for Growth



‘The overriding priority of this government is to return the UK economy to balanced, sustainable growth...that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries.’

‘Higher education is central to growth and the UK has one of the most successful higher education systems in the world.’

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# Working in context of Government policies

## *The Government's Plan for Growth*

- to make the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business
- to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy
- to create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe
- [and to create the most competitive tax system in the G20]

# Growth – not austerity

*“For years, Britain has undervalued both the academic and technical skills a modern economy needs. This Government is determined to rectify both defects. We are willing to take the tough decisions needed to ensure that our universities thrive.”*

Coalition’s Mid-Term Review, Jan 2013

# A successful UK research base

- 11 UK universities in the World Universities Ranking Top 100 (second only to US)
- UK attracts 15% of all international doctoral students (second only to US)
- 3rd in G8 (behind US and Germany) for production of PhD qualifiers
- UK produces more publications and citations per pound spent on research than other G8 nations
- With 1% world population we produce 6.9% of world publications, receive 10.9% of citations and 13.8% of citations with highest impact.

# Growth & Success

- 1.8 million HE students are studying full-time in England; of these, 84 per cent are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with university life in the UK
- UK is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world for research excellence, and the most efficient publicly funded research system in the G8
- UK is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world for University-industry collaboration in research and development

# University of Hull



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# University of Hull

*'As an anchor institution, the University of Hull will be a symbol of aspiration and inspiration, hope, pride and confidence to its local communities.'*

'Geographical location, natural and industrial assets, availability of development land and labour all aligned to the urgent global need to address energy supply, sustainability and security present the region with its biggest economic opportunity since the demise of the fishing industry'

*Examples:*

- Green Ports Hull; Humber Ports Partnership; World Trade Centre Hull and Humber.
- Hull Enterprise Centre; Humber Local Economic Partnership
- Yorks and Humber Proof of Commercial Concept Scheme

# University of Oxford



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# University of Oxford

*'One of the university's core strategic objectives is to make further significant contributions to society, regionally, nationally and internationally, through the fruits of its research and the skills of its alumni...the University thrives on diversity and the broad disciplinary base of its academic endeavours.'*

'At the geographical heart of the UK sits an international economic powerhouse, thriving new technology, new markets and ground-breaking developments which aid every aspect of UK industry and commerce.'

*Examples:*

- Isis Innovation; Oxford Invention Fund
- Oxford Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Oxford Entrepreneurs Society; The Student Consultancy
- Begbroke Science Park; Oxford Industry Forum
- Oxford City Region Enterprise Partnership; Oxford Innovation Strategy

# University of the Arts London



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# University of the Arts London

*'UAL connects different art forms, creative sectors, business models and collaborations to produce an unparalleled overall system of creative knowledge exchange.'*

'High level networks within creative and cultural industries, positioning UAL as a major hub and driver for the creative economy in London and nationally...Economic restructuring – a driver of micro-business and SME business start-up and entrepreneurship...Digitisation and convergence - growing demand for creative content and services, and positioning creativity as a wider force for economic and social development.'

*Examples:*

- UAL Student Enterprise and Employability; Artsmart
- At LCF: Fashion Business Resource Studio; Centre for Fashion Enterprise Agency; Designer-Manufacturer Innovation Support Centre
- At CSM: Method Design Lab; The Innovation Centre

# Economic impact of universities and colleges

- HE is the UK's 7<sup>th</sup> biggest export industry
- Generates gross export earnings of over £5.3bn
- HE generates £59bn output for UK economy, and generates directly or indirectly 668,500 jobs – helping resilience of local communities and economies

# Economic impact of knowledge exchange

- KE income reported by HEIs in HEBCI survey reached £3.3bn in 2010-11, an increase of 45% since 2003-4
- Every £1 HEIF produces £6 in economic impact/income
- Strategic commitment to KE by most HEIs
- Development of increasingly long-term and in-depth relationships with business – platform for economic impacts of research and teaching

# More Evidence

- REF impact case studies should give us good examples on economic impacts of research
- But do we have compelling case studies of the specific business/economic impacts of graduates and postgraduates?
- Do we have good evidence of the influence of graduates on overall economic growth?
- Do we need to do more to clarify the contribution of research funding to economic impacts?
- Do we need to do more to gain support of business for our arguments?

# Catalyst Fund - £50M Economic Growth pot

- Focussing on:
  - Enhancing the economic anchor role of HE
  - Supporting innovation-led growth in key sectors
  - Stimulating UG, PG & PD employability, entrepreneurship and work-readiness
- Feed into Government's Industrial Strategy on business demand, impacts and leverage

# Other targeted investments

- On-going commitment to support innovative proposals on economic growth through the Catalyst Fund
- Build on success of the UK Research Partnerships Investment Fund – wider model
- Additional HEIF allocations where there is evidence that top cap constrains responding to growth

# Working in partnership

- Working with TSB on priority projects for the £50M catalyst growth pot, and TSB involved in appraisals
- Working with TSB and RCUK on potential approaches to the next EU Structural Funds round, leading into Horizon 2020
- Working with BIS, TSB and RCUK on evidence and public investment cases
- With CIHE on the National Centre for Universities and Business – importance of support of business

# Research Assessment Principles

- HEFCE undertakes research quality assessment:
- As an assurance mechanism
- To provide information and benchmarking for HEIs, research users and others
- As an essential element in our funding allocation process



# REF submission intentions

- REF submission deadline: November 2013
- UK HEIs plan to submit 54,269 academic staff, compared to 52,401 in RAE 2008: an increase of 3.6 per cent
- 10.6 per cent increase in submissions expected in science and engineering disciplines (from 12,234 to 13,532)
- Smaller increases expected in social sciences (from 14,834 to 15,694; 5.8 per cent); level/slightly reduced numbers in arts and humanities (from 11,247 to 11,239; -0.1 per cent), and healthcare /life sciences (from 14,086 to 13, 805; -2.0 per cent)



# Thank You

**[d.sweeney@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:d.sweeney@hefce.ac.uk)**